

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2000-95

February 15, 2000

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Summary Investigation into Accident
in Industry, Maine on December 12, 1999

NOTICE OF SUMMARY
INVESTIGATION

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

This Notice of Summary Investigation commences a summary investigation into an accident involving the death of a Central Maine Power Company employee. We will conduct this summary investigation pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. §§ 710 and 1303(1), and Chapter 130 of the Commission's Rules.

On December 12, 1999, Central Maine Power Company (CMP) notified the Commission that CMP Lineworker 1st Class T&D Brent R. Churchill had been electrocuted earlier that day while performing storm restoration repair work in Industry, Maine. CMP notified the Commission of this accident and subsequently provided a written report of the accident, as required by Chapter 130. In the case of accidents resulting in the loss of life, 35-A M.R.S.A. § 710 requires that "the commission shall cause an investigation of the accident to be made immediately."

The purpose of the summary investigation is to investigate the acts and practices of Central Maine Power Company related to the fatal accident before, during, and following the accident. The summary investigation will address the following issues to the extent that they may have contributed to that accident:

1. Do work procedures conform to the current National Electrical Safety Code (NESC)¹?
2. Do facilities conform to NESC requirements?
3. Is appropriate safety equipment available?

¹ 35-A M.R.S.A. § 2305-A(2) requires that each electric utility "design, construct, operate and maintain its lines and equipment in conformance with the applicable provisions of the most recent edition of the [National Electrical Safety Code (NESC)]." The code "covers basic provisions for safeguarding of persons from hazards arising from the installation, operation, or maintenance of 1) conductors and equipment in electric supply stations, and 2) overhead and underground electric supply and communication lines. It also includes work rules for the construction, maintenance, and operation of electric supply and communication lines and equipment." NESC Code (1997 Ed.) at (i).

